

THE

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Burlingame Field Trip

After a day and night of almost continuous rain, we arose on the morning of February 14 to find a clear day with the sun shining brightly—a perfect day for birding.

Mrs. Kelly left her home in Alameda to lead our field trip at Burlingame. As she drove along the main highway between Mt. Eden and Alvarado, she noted in the numerous rain pools California Herons, two American Egrets, 300± Shovellers, many Coots, Black-bellied Plovers, Long-billed Dowitchers, and numerous sandpipers of several species. As she crossed the San Mateo Bridge the tide was very low and the mud flats were covered with a great mass of Marbled Godwits. She noted also large numbers of Western Grebes, many Canvas-back Ducks and American Golden-eyes, numbers of Surf Scoters, a few Snowy and many Black-bellied Plovers, a few Willets, fifteen Long-billed and about twelve Hudsonian Curlews.

At Burlingame the morning was spent walking up Easton Drive, around Baileyana Road, along Oakdale and Summit Road and back to Easton Drive, where luncheon was eaten at the small playground. We looked in vain for returning Allen Hummingbirds. We did, however, observe one of the Orange-crowned Warblers feeding in an oak tree. We watched it for some time, but it did not sing, so we concluded that it was one of the winter visiting warblers, either a Dusky or the eastern Orange-crowned and not an early Lutescent, which species always confirms its identification by its constant singing. Birds were out in very small numbers, only twenty-five species being noted as follows:

Cooper Hawk 1	Vigors Wren 3	Pine Siskin 10+
Red-tailed Hawk 1	Western Robin 2	Green-backed Goldfinch 4
Sparrow Hawk 1	Hermit Thrush 7	Spotted Towhee 7
Quail	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3	Brown Towhee 10
Anna Hummingbird 2	Orange-crowned Warbler 1	Junco 21+
California Jay 8	Myrtle Warbler 1	Nuttall Sparrow 59+
Barlow Chickadee 4	Audubon Warbler 3	Golden-crowned Sparrow 5
Plain Titmouse 3	Townsend Warbler 1	Song Sparrow 5
Bush-tits		

After luncheon we drove down to the marshes at Mountain View. Along the Bayshore Highway we observed numerous sandpipers feeding or at rest in the many rain pools and flooded ground as well as large numbers of gulls. Fifteen species as follows were noted:

California Heron 1	Marsh Hawk 2	Red-backed Sandpiper
American Egret 1	Sparrow Hawk 2	California Gull
Shoveller 100+	Clapper Rail 2	Bonaparte Gull 5
Scaup	Long-billed Curlew	California Woodpecker 1
Ruddy Duck 6+	Yellow-legs 16	Meadowlark 8

On the Mountain View marshes the following species were seen:

California Heron 1	Marsh Hawk 1	Marbled Godwit
American Egret 1	Clapper Rail 1	Long-billed Dowitcher
Shoveller 150+	Killdeer 6	Avocet 1
Bufflehead 1	Long-billed Curlew	Pipit
Ruddy Duck 150±	Western Willet	Savannah Sparrow 3
Red-breasted Merganser 3		

Returning to San Francisco, a short stop was made at the salt ponds at Redwood City, but the tide being very high only Fared and Pied-billed Grebes, Shovellers, Scaup and Ruddy Ducks in small numbers were seen.

Thirteen members, Messrs. and Mesdames Andrews, Stephens; Mrs. Kelly; Misses Danz, McHoul, Werner; Messrs. Lastreto, Power, Thomas; Masters Berliner and Kirker; with three guests from Hillsborough: Mesdames A. Baer, Leslie H. Peter, Jr., and Miss Barbara Norris, enjoyed the trip.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.



Banding Hawks and Owls

Mr. Richard H. Pough of the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City, would like to obtain the co-operation of our members and readers in a project designed to increase our knowledge of Hawks and Owls through banding.

Mr. Pough has obtained from the Biological Survey a permit and bands for all sizes of Hawks. He will send any number of bands, from one up, to those wishing to take up this work if they will specify the species they wish to band. With each band is a card which is to be returned to Mr. Pough after the band is placed on the bird, as all the records will be cleared through him.

Some of our members, particularly our younger men, know of Hawk and Owl nests and have been banding some of these species already. This is a fine opportunity to help advance a branch of ornithological knowledge through co-operative effort.



Clapper Rail Vagrancy

In the November, 1936, GULL there was a short article on the appearance of the Clapper Rail in unusual places far from its natural habitat. Since that writing, additional similar cases have been reported as follows:

Mr. Oliver J. Millard writes: "While driving on North Point Street below Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, on Sunday, November 8, 1936, Mrs. Millard and I saw a Clapper Rail next to a warehouse building. Later when it was in the shrubbery along the Galileo High School playground it just slipped through my hands and escaped."

On November 8, Mr. and Mrs. James Murdock saw a Clapper Rail in shrubbery on a bluff at Lake Merced—an unusual place for this species. When disturbed, it fluttered down to the reeds at the edge of the lake.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly reported a Clapper Rail found dead at Iris Street and Eighty-second Avenue, Oakland, November 11, 1936. The dead bird was given to Dr. Miller, who found it had a broken neck, evidently from flying against something.

Mr. Chase Littlejohn reported November 18, 1936, having seen since early fall several Clapper Rail, on the ocean shore of San Mateo County, which seemed perfectly at home among the rocks just clear of the breakers. Two were seen a half a mile apart on one occasion. Another Clapper Rail was picked up dead in Redwood City in a neighbor's yard. It had evidently flown against something and been killed. This bird was at least three-quarters of a mile from the nearest marsh.

Mr. Littlejohn states that he believes the lack of food supply probably has much to do with the appearance of the Clapper Rail in so many unusual places

of late. He tells us that the crabs which constitute most of the food supply have nearly disappeared, apparently having been wiped out by the little shellfish called the Worn-out shell, which latter are on the mud flats in untold millions. Also the little centipede-like worm on which they fed has disappeared.

Mr. Littlejohn does not offer the above as an established fact but merely as his present belief.

One thing is certain, something is disturbing the Clapper Rail, scattering them far and wide and in many cases bringing them to grief. It has also been suggested by other bird students that possibly the species is becoming more numerous and these are mostly young birds seeking new territory or just wandering about as young birds are more or less likely to do. Flying low and not being able to change their direction suddenly, in case of need, they strike wires and buildings, and either become disabled or are killed.



Treasurer's Report for 1936

Commercial account:

Balance January 2, 1936..... \$ 96.45

Receipts:

Dues for the year 1935.....	\$ 11.00	
Dues for the year 1936.....	276.00	
Dues for the year 1937.....	27.00	
Dues for the year 1938.....	3.00	
Life Member	50.00	
Subscribers THE GULL, 1936.....	7.50	
Subscribers THE GULL, 1937.....	1.00	
Back numbers of THE GULL.....	.30	
Donation from a guest.....	1.50	
Refund Lighthouse Research.....	25.00	
Sales of "Birds of Marin County".....	13.00	415.30
		<u>\$511.75</u>

Expenditures:

Publishing THE GULL.....	\$216.00	
Stamped envelopes	33.92	
Sales tax	6.91	
Dues National Association.....	5.00	
Formation of a Junior Audubon.....	1.40	
Expenses Mr. Baker's lecture.....	13.41	
P. G. & E. lantern service.....	10.00	
Expenses, Mr. Peterson's lecture.....	6.75	
P. G. & E. lantern service.....	10.00	
Lantern for Dr. Pickwell's lecture.....	2.00	
Dinner expenses for guests.....	7.05	
Mrs. Bracelin's expenses re lectures.....	2.69	
Janitor's Christmas gift.....	5.00	
Miscellaneous expenses, stamps, etc.....	11.14	
Deposit in Savings Account.....	60.50	
Balance in Commercial Account.....	119.98	\$511.75

Savings Account:

Balance January 2, 1936.....	\$552.83
Deposit in 1936.....	60.50
Interest in 1936.....	11.30
	<u>\$624.63</u>

Total Account:

Commercial Account	\$119.98	
Savings Account	624.63	\$744.61

Memberships: Honorary 8; Life 11; Junior 8; Active 99. Subscribers 7.

Checked and approved: Chas. A. Bryant.

Laura A. Stephens, Treasurer.

Audubon Notes

March Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 11th, at 8 o'clock, in room 19, Ferry Building.

Speaker: Dr. Jean M. Linsdale, whose subject will be "Problems of Bird Conservation in California."

Members may bring guests.



March Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Point Bonita. Buy round-trip ticket to Sausalito, 25 cents, and take 8:45 ferry. Bring luncheon.

Those wishing to ride back from the lighthouse may do so. Taxi fare, 50c.



February Meeting: The 234th regular meeting was held on the 11th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with forty-five members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

The following new members were elected: Mrs. Bernard T. Rocca of Berkeley; Mrs. Thos. T. Kent and Mrs. Wm. Kent, Sr., of Kentfield.

Commander Parmenter reported that Mr. Bea, keeper at the Crystal Springs Lakes, stated that just before Christmas there were about 2500 Canada Geese at the lakes. The following observations were also reported by Commander Parmenter: 100 Geese on February 3rd and a Pigeon Hawk on the 9th at the same locality. On January 20th, on the Skyline Boulevard near the Crystal Springs Country Club, a Road-runner; on February 9th on the Filoli Road, a Say Phoebe and one Mountain Bluebird. January 16th, on the Mountain View marshes 300± Avocets and about 40 Long-billed Curlews; on February 3, 6 Green-winged Teal. On Jan-

uary 19, San Mateo Bridge, 16 Snowy Plovers; February 5th, at Lincoln Park, San Francisco, a Varied Thrush, and at Lake Merced, a Willow Woodpecker.

Laidlaw Williams saw a male Old Squaw on Carmel Bay, January 15th, and on January 8th at the mouth of El Torro Creek where it empties into the Salinas River in Monterey County, three Violet-green Swallows.



Gordon Bolander reports by mail some interesting bird records, which are as follows: At Lake Merced on January 18th, a huge flock of Savannah Sparrows, one Horned Grebe, five Gadwalls, one female Bufflehead, one male Green-winged Teal, several Wilson Snipe, and a pair of Ravens flying over the lake from the south. On the ocean beach near Fleishhacker Pool he watched for some time a Glaucous Gull. On Dolores Street, San Francisco, near where the railroad crosses, he saw a Mockingbird.

He also made a list of dead birds found on the beach, January 18th, as follows: one each Pacific Loon, Eared Grebe, Brandt Cormorant, Ruddy Duck, two Glaucous-winged Gulls, four Western Gulls, one each California Gull, Marbled Murrelet, Cassin Auklet. On February 7th, one each Western Grebe, Farallon Cormorant, two Surf Scoters, five Glaucous-winged Gulls, seven Western Gulls, two California Murres, and one each Rhinoceros Auklet and Short-billed Gull.

Robert Taylor writes of birding on Bay Farm Island and seeing on January 7th, thirty-three Canada Geese and on the 16th about 110 Snow Geese.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.